

REMARKS

Claims 19-37 are pending, with claims 1-18 having been canceled in a preliminary amendment dated September 28, 2007. In response to the pending Office Action dated November 18, 2008, Applicants request withdrawal of the outstanding Office Action and issuance of a new non-final Official action resetting the time period for response.

Telephone Interview

Applicants thank Examiner McDonald for conducting an interview with Applicants' representative, Mr. Andrew Wright, on January 6, 2009. In the interview, Applicants' representative pointed out that claims 1-18 were canceled and replaced in favor of new claims 19-37 in a preliminary amendment dated September 28, 2007. Applicants' representative pointed out that the Office Action dated November 18, 2008, sets forth rejections of claims 1-18 without addressing claims 19-37. The Examiner agreed that the rejections of claims 1-18 would be withdrawn, and that a new non-final office action would be issued.

35 U.S.C. §103 Rejection

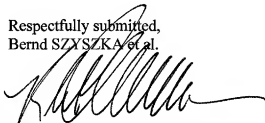
Claims 1-5, 7, and 10-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) for being unpatentable over U.S. Pub. No. 2002/0092766 ("Lampkin") in view of U.S. Pat. No. 5,320,729 ("Narizuka"). Claims 6 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) for being unpatentable over Lampkin and Narizuka, and further in view of U.S. Pat. No. 5,338,422 ("Belkind"). Claims 8, 9, and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) for being unpatentable over Lampkin and Narizuka, and further in view of U.S. Pat. No. 5,405,517 ("Lampkin '517"). Claim 17 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) for being unpatentable over Lampkin and Narizuka, and further in view of U.S. Pat. No. 5,814,195 ("Lehan"). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

As noted above, claims 1-18 were not pending at the time the outstanding Office Action was issued. Instead, claims 19-37 were pending. Therefore, the rejection of claims 1-18 is moot. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 1-18 be withdrawn, and that a new non-final Office action treating claims 19-37 on the merits be issued.

CONCLUSION

Applicants submit that the foregoing remarks are fully responsive to the outstanding Office Action. As agreed to in the interview, Applicants request that a new non-final office action with a new time period for response be issued. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below, if needed. Applicants hereby make a written conditional petition for extension of time, if required. Please charge any deficiencies in fees and credit any overpayment of fees to Attorney's Deposit Account No. 19-0089.

Respectfully submitted,
Bernd SZYSZKA et al.



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